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1959/12/11

11 December 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Cuban Problems.

11-4901
Revised: 10/2/60

This memorandum requests approval by the Director of the recommendations contained in paragraph 3.

1. Estimate of the Situation.

a. A dictatorship of the far left is now established. It is not only unfriendly to the United States in oral criticism, but has taken action against American properties, both industrial and agricultural, which, if permitted to stand, will encourage similar actions against U.S. holdings in other Latin American countries.

b. We do and must expect a major increase in the scale and effectiveness of Cuban aid and participation in revolutionary actions against other countries of Latin America now friendly to the United States. In addition to those that have already been targets - Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, recent intelligence indicates a direct interest by Castro in Colombia and Peru. Betancourt's position in Venezuela would be gravely weakened by Castro successes, and it is believed only a question of time before an alliance would be established between the powerful Communist Party of Venezuela and the Castros.

c. Rapid nationalization of the banks, industry and commerce is reportedly contemplated. If this occurs, the small group in control will have at its disposition several hundred million dollars from the sale of the sugar crop early in 1960. Part of these funds may be used to further their revolutionary objectives against other countries of the Caribbean and South America.

d. Castro has lost the support of the upper class and most of the middle class. He probably still has a sufficient following from the masses to maintain control until further inroads can be made in his popular support and the opposition more effectively unified.

e. Propaganda action to reduce his following, while essential, in itself will probably not be enough to dislodge him. His approaching stronghold on Cuba will be broken only by violent action.

f. It is my personal opinion that if Castro is successful in consolidating his position and remaining in power for two more years,

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By jt NARA date 11/3/95

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lasting damage may occur to the United States' already weakened position of leadership in Latin America.

2. U.S. Objective:

The overthrow of Castro within one year, and his replacement by a junta friendly to the United States which will call for elections six months after assumption of office.

3. Recommended Action:

a. Clandestine radio attacks from Caribbean countries of the liberal group, working closely with us and using Cuban nationals for broadcasting.

b. Intrusion operations against Castro's TV and radio, to be mounted from within Cuba.

c. The encouragement of pro-U.S. opposition groups, excluding Batista and Maffett supporters, to establish by force a controlled area within Cuba. This would have the following advantages:

(1) It would permit the establishment of a radio station, long wave, which would reach all of the stations in Cuba. Since it would be on Cuban soil, the problems of joint operations with other countries would be eliminated.

(2) A controlled area would be a rallying point for the growing opposition to Castro in the same manner that the 26th of July movement in the hills of Oriente became the rallying point of many who turned against Batista.

(3) It would be a means of testing the strength and fiber of the opposition, and separating the men from the boys.

(4) The reportedly large fragmented elements of the constitutional Cuban Army would have a place to go.

(5) A sizeable guerrilla movement within Cuba would curtail Castro's plans for revolutionary action against other countries.

d. Thorough consideration be given to the elimination of Fidel Castro. None of those close to Fidel, such as his brother Raul

or his companion Che Guevara, have the same magnetic appeal to the masses. Many informed people believe that the disappearance of Fidel would greatly accelerate the fall of the present Government.

SIGNED

J.C. King

Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

cc: DDCI

CONCUR:

12 DEC 1959

(sgt) Richard S. Fisk, Jr.

Deputy Director (Plans)

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 is approved:

SIGNED

Director of Central Intelligence

Date 12 DEC 1959

*Forwarded in by DDP on 12/12 & out
again signed by D.C.I. DDP's secy state
OK to let Secy in ER. mband
12/15*

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